

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 20, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-4 were rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,015,211 issued to E.B. Luttrell ("Luttrell"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

Claims 1 and 4 (the independent claims) have been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the teachings of Luttrell.

Luttrell teaches a gas turbine in which the air in the compressor section is pressurized by multiple stages of acceleration and deceleration. As illustrated in Figure 4 of Luttrell, and as explained in col . 4, lines 61 - 75, air first flows through a first set of passageways 67 in rib 54. It is then entrapped and pressurized by vanes 52. This is the first stage. The air then travels through a next set of passageways 67, and is again trapped by vanes 52a. This is the second stage, and there is yet another stage of flow and entrapment.

The flow through Luttrell's gas turbine may be best understood from the point of view of a particle entering at the center of wheel 24. Because wheel 24 is rotating, the successive stages of flow (through passageways 67) and entrapment (by vanes 52, 52a, and 52b) result in the particle being turned back and forth in a zig zag pattern. The flow path through the compressor of Luttrell alternates between the direction of rotation and the counter direction.

In contrast, the compressor of the present invention is a single stage compressor. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite this feature of the invention. It can be easily understood from Figure 2 of the present invention, that a particle would flow through the compressor stage (formed by ribs 23) in a continuous spiral-shaped path. This is consistent with the principle of operation of the gas turbine of the present invention, which is to build compression through the compression stage by maintaining the kinetic energy (velocity) of the air flow in the tangential direction.

In contrast, the principle of operation of the Luttrell gas turbine is to build compression by accelerating and decelerating the air flow. Luttrell teaches away from the present invention by reducing rather than maintaining tangential energy.

Claim 1 describes the single-stage compressor section in terms of the uninterrupted channel formed between fins. In contrast, in the multi-stage compressor of Luttrell, the flow through passages 67 is interrupted by vanes 52, 52a and 52c.

Claim 4 describes the single-stage compressor section in terms of the fins. A set of fins form a single concentric row. There is no single concentric row in the multi-stage compressor of Luttrell; there are multiple concentric rows of ribs and vanes.

For the above reasons, Claims 1 and 4 (the independent claims) are allowable, as are their dependent claims.

New Claims

New Claims 5 - 8 are requested to be added. They do not add new matter, and support for these claims is pervasive throughout the description.

Specific support for Claims 9 and 14 is found on page 7, lines 17-18.

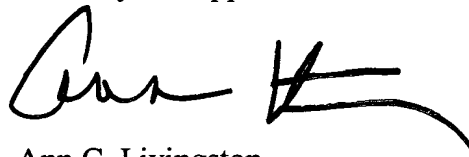
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims as amended.

Applicant encloses a Petition for Two Month Extension of Time, and a check in the amount of \$225.00. Applicant believes no further fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2634.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann C. Livingston', followed by a horizontal line with a small upward tick at the end.

Ann C. Livingston
Reg. No. 32,479

Date: February 10, 2006

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